

# Westside Weekly

1/12/2014



## From the Pastor's Pen

### Let's Face It



"What a crabby-looking lady," the cashier at my local convenience store whispered to her co-worker. I was tromping through the aisle grabbing products off the shelf like it was Y2K. I had a half dozen kids waiting for me in the van, and here's the thing: they were all my own children. No time for polite. No casual conversation, no nod of approval toward the stock boy, no breathing. Just get the toilet paper, two gallons of milk and some Frosted Flakes and get back out in the trenches! But I was intrigued by the crabby-looking lady. Which one was she? Hoisting a family pack of toilet paper under my arm, I scanned the tiny store. Let's see, there's a middle-aged guy in aisle three stocking up on pork rinds, an older gentleman at the checkout purchasing an egg salad sandwich and a coffee, and... just then I saw her, the crabby-looking lady. Her eyes were small slits; her brown hair was pulled back in a ponytail so tight it looked like her forehead would snap off. Her mouth was a severe gash between pinched cheeks. A deep furrow cut the lady's brows. Crabby wasn't the word. This lady looked like she had either smelled something really bad or was about to single-handedly euthanize her own cat. Couldn't tell which. Then, I turned away from my own reflection in the convex security mirror at the back of the store. The crabby looking lady was me! That night, after I ran the troops through bath, brush and bed routine, I plopped on my bed and sobbed. I was the crabby-looking lady!

Me! The girl voted nicest smile by her high school class. I had become a cross between Morticia from The Addams Family and a lemon! Right then and there I resolved to do one thing over the next year. One simple resolution: to smile. I didn't need to wait for January 1st - I would start right now. Simple, right? Sure, if you're a televangelist. Or naturally nice. Or just had a lobotomy. But I'm a mom. And moms have stuff to accomplish. People depend on us to be crabby! How else do bedrooms get picked up? I mean, a smile is perfectly appropriate for those "Oh, sweetie, thanks for picking a handful of dandelions for mommy and saying you wuv me" days. But what about the days when the teenagers broke curfew and the dog puked Oreos on the bathroom floor and Dad is late from work again and the baby is doing that colicky thing? On days like that I'm just supposed to (twitch, twitch) smile? Well, unless I wanted to end up looking like a shrunken head, all I could do was try. Of course I didn't tell anyone about my smile resolution. It was going to be hard enough to smile without my kids making comments like, "Mom, is there something wrong with your face?" I would just go smiley on my own terms. At least ten times a day, I would make a conscious effort to smile. And it wouldn't count if I did it ten times in a row. It must be incremental. The first day of "Mission Smile" I smiled at: a strange dog who peed on my daughter's new school shoes, the mailman, three of my six children, a librarian who asked me if I was aware of the global overpopulation problem, and my bathtub.

Continued on back...



## Nursery

- 1/12 Debbie Keehn  
Dana Moore
- 1/19 Amy Clackler  
Patricia Thomas
- 1/26 Russell Hitson  
Stacey Hitson
- 2/2 Cathy Thomason  
Debbie Widen
- 2/9 Betty Jean Phillips  
Nicole York

## Children's Church



Children in the 4th grade and under are invited to join us in Children's Church after the choir opens up the service.

## Announcements

- \* AWANA Program tonight at 6pm! Tonight's theme is "Let your light shine"! Bring a flashlight and come ready for fun!
- \* PUSH Ministry tonight at 6pm. Join us as we Pray Until Something Happens!
- \* Children's Church will be open to children K5 thru 4th grade. Older Youth are encouraged to take notes during Brother Mike's sermon using the provided outline to earn extra points to spend in the AWANAs store.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1/1 Rachel Brown
- 1/5 Cassidy Goodwin
- 1/6 Tori Brown Hinton
- 1/10 Franky Davis
- 1/12 Katie Goodwin
- 1/14 Cheyann Moore
- 1/16 Mary Weaver
- 1/22 Hunter Haney
- 1/28 Dot Tatum

## Church Schedule



### Sunday

10:00am Sunday School  
 11:00am Morning Worship Service & Children's Church  
 5:00pm Choir Practice  
 6:00pm AWANA & PUSH Ministry

### Wednesday

6:30pm Bible Study & Children's Choir

- \* 1st Wednesday of the month - Business Meeting and Fellowship
- \* 2nd Saturday of the month - Men's Brotherhood Breakfast at 8:00am

I smiled at my husband over the phone when he called to say he'd be late from work (it wasn't really much of a smile, more like a facial spasm). And I smiled at myself in the mirror twice, just to remind myself what a smile looked like. (Mouth curved upwards, twinkle in eyes, good... now think happy thoughts.) After the first week of smiling practice, I discovered that if I forgot to smile all morning, I could make up for it by watching *I Love Lucy* reruns after the kids went to bed. I thought of it as extra credit smiling homework. After a month, though, a weird thing happened. I didn't even try to find things to smile at and I'd still notice this funny sensation take over my face. It was like Pavlov's dogs to a bell: I'd see my kids run in from playing "throw mud at the sibling with the lowest IQ" and Ding! Smile. When my teenage daughter loaded the dishwasher with her soccer shin pads and cleats... Ding! Smile. Even when we were really late for church and fangs began to protrude from my upper jaw and venom dripped from my incisors and I hissed, "Hurry little children, it's time to partake in the precious body and blood of Christ!" Ding! Smile. It was actually kind of unsettling, this smile thing. Like I could actually be happy in the midst of chaos! The final blow came, though, after nine months or so of my resolution. I was meeting a couple of friends for our regular date at a local coffee shop. Bursting through the coffee shop door in my usual haphazard manner, I overheard the cashier behind the coffee counter remark to a co-worker, "There's that happy looking lady again." And I didn't even have to look around the coffee shop to know who she was talking about. I could see my own reflection in the cash register on the counter. The forty-year-old voted best smile... by me.

By Cristy Trandahi

***A smile is an inexpensive way to  
 change your looks.  
 ~Charles Gordy***

## **PUSH PRAYER LIST**

PASTOR MIKE & FAMILY  
 OUR COUNTRY & TROOPS  
 MISSIONARIES  
 CHURCH MINISTRIES/AWANAS  
 INACTIVE MEMBERS/VISITORS  
 GIDEON MINISTRY  
 ISREAL/JERUSALEM  
 FED., STATE, LOCAL GOV'T

DANIEL STRICKLAND  
 BYRON STRICKLAND  
 JUSTIN STRICKLAND  
 ESTELLE RADFORD  
 MYRA HALL  
 DARSEY & JOYCE STRICKLAND  
 LARRY MONFEE  
 PAM HANEY  
 MARIE NELSON  
 BOBBY & FAYE NELSON  
 MAYETTA DAVIS  
 BETTY JEAN'S FAMILY  
 WAYNE PHILLIPS  
 BRENT & ASHLEIGH MORSE  
 PEARL SIMPSON  
 HARVEY SMITH FAMILY  
 MARK & CINDY REEVES  
 DOROTHY JOHNSON  
 BILL & ESSIE EZELL  
 MRS. McCORD  
 JEANETTE McDONALD & FAMILY  
 BRANDI McDONALD  
 MABEL ANDERSON FAMILY  
 GERTIE LEVINS  
 ED DRINKARD  
 RONNIE THOMASON  
 RUSS LOCKHART & FAMILY  
 LEONARD THRIFT  
 MARTHA PARKER  
 SHIRLEY JOHNSON  
 JIMMIE SUE HILL  
 DANNY & LINDA TATUM FAMILY  
 VICTOR & CAROL BROWN  
 TORI HINTON  
 RACHEL BROWN  
 KYLE & LYDIA BARTOLO  
 STEVEN & CONNIE BYE  
 WAYNE KENNEDY  
 EARLENE REED  
 JOE FREDRICK  
 JAMES JONES  
 PAUL JONES

PHILLIP BYE  
 CARMEN MORRIS  
 RON & SHIRLEY HUDSON  
 JAMES LESTER HALL  
 MERIDETH JONES  
 HOLLIS KENNEDY  
 JAMES JONES  
 HITSON FAMILY  
 SAMANTHA GRIFFIS  
 JORNEGAN FAMILY  
 IAN HALL  
 CECIL FISHER  
 JOHN LEHEW FAMILY  
 BRIAN CARR FAMILY  
 DAVID PELL  
 CALEB COOPER  
 ROBERT & ETOICE BUTLER  
 CHRISTINA LOVETT  
 DEBRA SISK  
 DAWN & MARGARET BALL  
 MARGARET PATTERSON  
 JAMES ADDIE  
 PHYLLIS ADDIE  
 CAROL DAVIS  
 CATHY THOMASON  
 JO MANIS  
 GLENN KESSLER  
 JAMES HOLLIDAY  
 CONNIE REEVES  
 KATHY PACE  
 LYNDA GRIER  
 MARTY & SHARON OWENS  
 LINDA MARTINEZ  
 FRANK DAVIS  
 SUE EVANS  
 JACOB CLARK  
 BONNIE DAVIS  
 TREVOR SIMS  
 JOHN KEMP  
 JEAN SUTHERLAND  
 CALVIN BYRD  
 KARLI CHADWICK  
 CHRISTY SMITH  
 McKENZIE MARCHBANKS  
 WEAVER FAMILY  
 ROBIN MARTINEZ  
 CAROL ALLEN  
 JASON BOYKIN  
 JOE & CLAUDIA STORAY  
 BETSY ELAM  
 GRADY GRAY  
 JIMMY CRANFORD

Please email announcements and prayer requests to  
 - [ajclackler@gmail.com](mailto:ajclackler@gmail.com)